

PERCORSO

2

The Camera Picta by Andrea Mantegna

di Alda Barbi

- **Riferimento al testo base:**

E. Tornaghi, *A colpo d'occhio*, volume B, pp.176-177

- **Destinatari:**

Scuola secondaria di Primo grado, classe 2^a

- **Liv. Linguistico:**

A2

Warming up

1a. These are some words referring to different types of works of art. Match each word to a picture.

Portrait / Fresco / Statue / Bust / Landscape / Graffiti



1b. Speaking - Do you know other types of works of art? What are the adjectives you usually associate with a work of art?

Homework

2. In the Net look for some images of works of art and associate an adjective to each of them.

Pre-listening activity

- 1a.** Look at this picture. This is a very famous Italian work of art. What is it? A portrait? A fresco? What else? Discuss with your classroom.



- 1b.** **Guessing game** - The title of this work is *Camera Picta*. What can it mean?

- a. A room with a lot of pictures.
- b. A room with a picturesque view.
- c. A painted room.
- d. A gallery of pictures.

Build up your vocabulary!

2. **Pair work** - Do you know the meaning of these words? Copy the words near their definitions in the table. One is given.

emperor / foliage / decoration / **plaque** / mantelpiece / artist / marquis / ceiling / curtains / walls

	upper part of a room
	the sides of a room or building
	the leaves of a plant or tree
	material that hides a window or a stage
<i>plaque</i>	a piece of stone or wood with writing on it
	a shelf above a fireplace
	a man who rules an empire
	a noble man of high rank
	something to make a thing more attractive
	a person who creates beautiful and interesting paintings

3. **Improve your knowledge.** Look at pages 176 and 177 on your art textbook B and you will find a picture of a detail of *Camera Picta* in Palazzo Ducale in Mantova. What particular artistic technique is it connected to? Find the translation in English.
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Pre-reading activities

- 1a.** You are going to read four brief descriptions of different scenes in the *Camera Picta* by Mantegna. Which of the following words do you expect to find? Underline the ones you think you will read.

dog	perspective	landscape
chair	game	mountains
wall	irregular	garden
Marquis	funny	king
ugly	important	oculus

- 1b.** Add three more words.

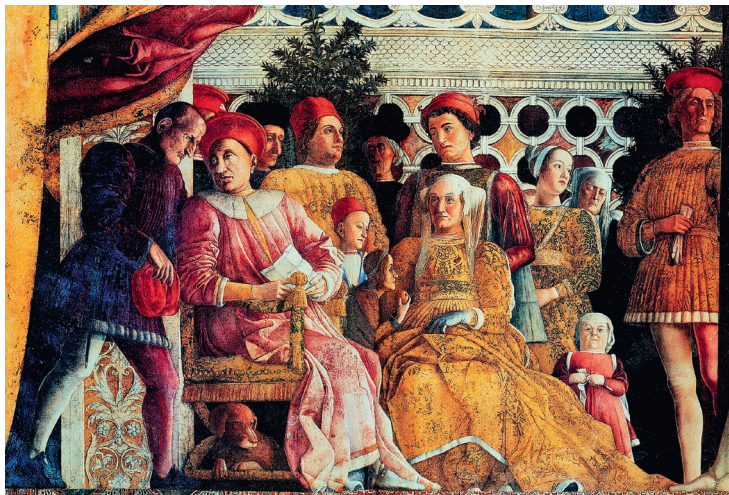
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Reading comprehension

- 2a.** **Group work** - The teacher forms four groups and hands out a text to each group. Each group reads the text with a brief description of the *Camera Picta*. The pictures help to understand the text.





2b. Fill in the chart with the informations from your text.

WH- QUESTIONS	THE GONZAGA FAMILY (Group 1)	THE MEETING (Group 2)	THE OCULUS (Group 3)	THE PLAYFUL ELEMENTS (Group 4)
Who are the people in the scene?				
Where are they?				
What are they doing?				
What other elements are painted?				
Why did the author paint it?				
What was his aim?				
Are there any animals painted?				
What is the technique used by the artist?				

- 2c.** The teacher shows on the IWB an image of the *Camera Picta*. Class discussion. Ask questions to each other about the part you have not read. Each group only has filled in one part of the table. Fill in the rest of the table with what you hear and see. In the end, try to express your personal appreciation of the *Camera Picta* using some adjectives and giving reasons.

*Ex. I like this work because it is... (beautiful / imposing / magnificent...)
I especially like the horse because it is... (realistic / well painted / big...)*

- 2c.** Reflecting on the language of art. Playing with words.

1. Notice these words used in the text: they have been adopted by the English language, but they come from...

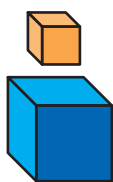
- a. Tondo = *Italian*
 b. Stucco =
 c. Fresco =
 d. Di sotto in su =
 e. Faux =
 f. Oculus =

2. What is the plural for these words? (Usually we use the Italian plural *tondi, putti*, but you can also find *puttos* and *tondos*. You say *frescos* or *frescoes*...)

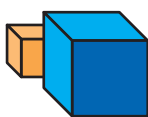
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Assessment

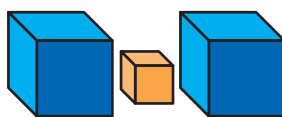
- 3a.** Revise the prepositions of place that you will need to use to describe an image.



above



behind



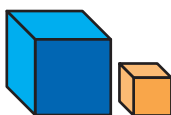
between



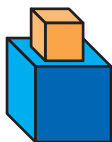
in



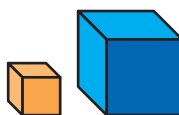
in front of



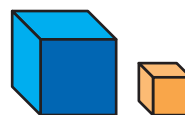
next to



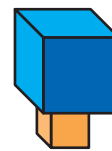
on



on the left



on the right



under

Remember: “in the centre” means “al centro”.

